
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Defense Acquisition University/Defense Systems Management College Introduces Online International Acquisition Course

By

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For over five years, the Defense Acquisition University, Defense Systems Management College, has offered a full program of international acquisition training and education at the intermediate level and beyond. It has been comprised of a family of international acquisition courses and continuous learning opportunities to prepare the acquisition workforce for the many challenges of international acquisition programs. Recently, an online training opportunity was added for the entry level. This course is primarily intended for acquisition workforce personnel, but Security Assistance and Foreign Disclosure personnel who play some role in international cooperative programs could benefit as well. The following is a brief description of the entire program.

Courses

There are three international acquisition courses in the program. They are designated as Assignment Specific Mandatory for the acquisition workforce. The courses also are designated as desired and required formal training under the new Department of Defense International Affairs Certification and Career Development Guidelines.

Multinational Program Management Course (PMT 202). This course emphasizes the National Security policy of engagement by encouraging armaments cooperation and interoperability with our allies. Students develop an understanding of how to be effective in an international defense acquisition program. Key national, DoD, and Service policies on international cooperative development, production, and support are explored.

International Security and Technology Transfer/Control Course (PMT 203). This course is a comprehensive review of security and technology transfer/control issues found in international acquisition programs.

Advanced International Management Workshop (PMT 304). This workshop explores issues associated with international negotiation of cooperative acquisition project agreements. Specific topics include negotiation preparation, authority to negotiate and conclude, DoD policies and experiences, and the role of executive departments and the Congress. Upon course completion, students are able to prepare and negotiate an international acquisition project agreement.

Continuous Learning

The DAU/DSMC international acquisition continuous learning program consists primarily of two annual international seminars and a biannual forum.

International Seminars

DAU/DSMC has formed strategic arrangements with Atlantic and Pacific partners. With Atlantic partners, we have been conducting an annual international acquisition/procurement seminar with defense acquisition educational institutions in the United Kingdom, Germany and France for fourteen years on a rotational basis. The fourteenth Atlantic Seminar is scheduled for July 2002 in Paris, France. In the Pacific we have a similar arrangement with defense institutions and Ministries in Australia, South Korea and Singapore. The fourth annual seminar is scheduled for September 2002 at DAU/DSMC, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

International Acquisition Forum

At DAU/DSMC we host a biannual International Acquisition Forum for OSD and the Services to present and exchange views on contemporary, and sometimes contentious, international acquisition topics. DAU/DSMC has hosted all twelve of these Forums since 1996, which are chaired by the OSD Director, International Cooperation. These forums receive high-level attention from OSD. The USD (AT&L) and the PDUSD (AT&L) have occasionally presided.

New Online International Course

International acquisition training historically began at the intermediate level of acquisition courses. While entry level acquisition workforce personnel would rarely be involved in an international program, there existed a need to provide some basic level training opportunities, especially for those unable to attend the classroom courses. Recognizing this, the OSD Acquisition Initiatives Office sponsored the development of an online course for acquisition workforce personnel new to the international arena. A team was formed chaired by a representative from the OSD Office of the Director, International Cooperation, and comprised of subject matter experts from the services' international program offices, OSD (Policy) International Security Programs, and DAU/DSMC - International Department. The contractor building the online training was Meridian Knowledge Solutions, Inc., Chantilly, Virginia.

The course is divided into three, two-hour parts, and was based upon the OSD Armaments Cooperation Handbook. While the last official version of the Handbook was released in 1996, a completely updated draft version was used to build the course, thus making it even more current than the available Handbook. The International Armaments Cooperation online course prepares learners to for instructor-led, classroom-based courses held at DAU/DSMC, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. A certificate of completion is available at the successful conclusion of the course and post-test.

Readers are encouraged to visit our international website and take the new International Armaments Cooperation online course, <http://www.dsmc.dau.mil/international/international.htm>

About the Author

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